

Customer service at MPF remains during transition

By Airman 1st Class Brian Hill
8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Kunsan's Military Personnel Flight, like other MPFs throughout the Air Force, is transitioning to a new military personnel data system known as MilMod.

The new system came on line June 1, and is designed to allow the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, to hold all personnel records while allowing real-time updates from the field.

"The old personnel data system was in dire need of replacement," said Senior Master Sgt. Paul Montgomery, Military Personnel Flight superintendent. "The previous system was originally designed using 1960s equipment and architecture and had band-aids applied over the years to keep it going, but even those were wearing out."

MilMod implementation has impacted several very visible items such as the generation of EPR, OPR and decoration RIPs. The transition has also delayed people to be gained to records files at new duty locations or sometimes impacted their pay.

"While initially tough and inconvenient to deal with, these are some of the growing pains that are rapidly being fixed during the transition to the modern system," said Montgomery.

"These problems tended to have a ripple effect, and we are trying our best to help the personnelists in the squadrons still

take care of their customers," added Capt. Ann Shigeta, MPF commander.

The problems associated with MilMod are being worked 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by a group of experts at AFPC and we are seeing progress daily, she continued.

With all the bumps in implementing the new system, it's vitally important for supervisors to be proactive in knowing when evaluation and feedback sessions are due.

"Providing feedback and writing timely reports are critical responsibilities for supervisors," said Maj. John McGarrity, 8th Mission Support Squadron commander. "As supervisors, we are accountable to our subordinates to ensure that we write the reports that are needed, even if we don't have a RIP telling us to write the EPR or conduct the feedback session."

Orderly rooms are encouraged to maintain accurate manual personnel counts to keep track of who is in PCS status, on temporary duty or on leave.

"We have more than 150 rosters available for tracking purposes in all areas of the MPF and we will work with commander's support staffs to get their daily task completed," said, Staff Sgt. Leo Polanco, personnel systems manager.

"We have gone out to the MPFs across the Air Force and asked what they are doing for accountability. Right now, commander's support staffs and MPFs are having to manually track personnel as they join a new unit or depart," said Shigeta.

HASC conference spells out military spending

The House Armed Services Committee reported the Fiscal Year 02 Defense Authorization Bill. The following highlights the major provisions:

Quality of Life

- Basic Military Pay: Recommends enlisted service members will receive at least a 6 percent pay raise, officers will receive at least a 5 percent pay raise, and certain pay grades will receive as much as a 10 percent pay increase. Also recommends changes to pay tables and significant additional increases for mid-grade and senior noncommissioned officers and mid-grade officers.

- Housing Allowance: Recommends adopting the President's request to reduce the average amount of housing expenses paid by service members from the current 15 percent to 11.3 percent in FY02 and to eliminate the out-of-pocket expense completely by FY05.

- PCS Reimbursement: Recommends increasing from \$110 to \$180 per day the maximum amount that service members may be reimbursed for temporary lodging and subsistence expenses incurred in the US as a result of a PCS move; authorizes payment of temporary lodging and subsistence expenses to officers reporting to their first permanent duty station; authorizes advance payment of vehicle storage costs and shipment of vehicles at government expense from one perma-

nent duty station to another within CONUS; increases from \$275 to \$675 the amount that military personnel may be reimbursed for mandatory pet quarantine fees resulting from a PCS; authorizes a dislocation allowance for service members ordered from their homes to their first duty stations; increases the maximum weight allowance for shipment of household effects for enlisted members in grades E-4 and below to 8,000 pounds for members with dependents, 7,000 pounds for grade E-4 members with less than 2 years of service without dependents, and 5,000 pounds for grades E-1 through E-3 without dependents; requires that per diem rates for service members conducting a PCS move be equivalent to federally regulated per diem rates for civilian employees changing permanent duty stations; requires payment of a temporary housing allowance to service members in pay grades below E-4 with less than 4 years of service while on travel or leave status between permanent duty stations.

Improving living/working conditions

The committee recommends \$10.3 billion (\$350 million more than the President's request and \$1.8 billion more than the FY01 level) for military construction and family housing accounts. The committee also recommends \$120

million for quality-of-life enhancements. Highlights of the committee's recommendations include:

-Housing Privatization: Recommends making permanent the authorities in the Military Housing Privatization Initiative that use private sector expertise and capital to accelerate improvement of government-owned housing.

-Military Family Housing: Recommends \$1.1 billion (\$49 million more than the President's request) for construction and improvement of 6,800 housing units and to provide necessary funding to support the privatization of another 28,000.

-Troop Housing: Recommends \$1.2 billion for construction of 51 new barracks and dormitories (\$39 million and 5 more buildings than the President's request) to support unaccompanied military personnel.

-Fitness Centers: Recommends \$181.5 million for 16 fitness centers (\$20.7 million and three more than the President's request).

-Dislocation Allowance: Recommends a provision to authorize a \$500 allowance to service members ordered to occupy or vacate government family housing as a result of privatization, renovation, or other reasons unrelated to a PCS move.

Happy Birthday 8th Fighter Wing

The Air Force activated the 8th Fighter Wing and several subordinate units Aug. 18, 1948. It was just one of many wings activated after World War II. Though the Army Air Forces had wings prior to this date, the wings of World War II resembled the numbered air forces of today. A World War II era wing was a large organization controlling several combat groups and many other organizations spread over a large area, very different from the "one wing/one base" wings of today.

In 1948, the Air Force gave each new combat wing the numerical designation of its assigned combat group. In our wing's case, that meant the 8th Fighter Group (activated in 1931). Many of the subordinate units still assigned to the this wing were activated Aug. 18, 1948.

Also activated on that day were the following units:

Original Designation Today's Designation

8th Maintenance and Supply Group
8th Logistics Group

8th Maintenance Squadron, Fighter, Single Engine
8th Maintenance Squadron

8th Supply Squadron, Fighter, Single Engine
8th Supply Squadron

8th Motor Vehicle Squadron, Fighter, Single Engine
8th Transportation Squadron

8th Air Base Group
8th Support Group

8th Installation Squadron, Fighter, Single Engine
8th Civil Engineer Squadron

8th Communications Squadron, Fighter, Single Engine
8th Communications Squadron

8th Air Police Squadron, Fighter, Single Engine
8th Security Forces Squadron

8th Food Service Squadron, Fighter, Single Engine
8th Services Squadron

(Information provided by the 8th Fighter Wing history office.)



**Tech. Sgt.
Brett Galeener**



Pride of the Pack

Job: Assistant Chief of Fire Prevention, 8th Civil Engineer Squadron
Hometown: San Angelo, Texas
Follow-on: Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla.
Hobbies: sports and reading

Nominees are selected for outstanding service and dedication to their unit. To nominate an individual, contact the member's group commander.